

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

Sept 1955

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Further to my previous Memorandum of Conversation with Mr. Schnyder, I had the opportunity today to reply informally to his oral informal demarche of June 30, 1955, concerning the possibility of the Swiss Legation installing a radio transmitter in Washington.

I told him that I had looked into the matter and that there is no likelihood of any development in the direction he had suggested, since the law of 1934 still applies and makes it impossible for any agreement to be negotiated on this subject. Mr. Schnyder said he fully understood and did not wish to press the matter further, but had felt that the new situation in the field of transmission in Germany following on Germany's independence might have created new conditions leading to an amendment, or at least a broadening of the interpretation of the existing law. I asked Mr. Schnyder whether the Swiss Legation was satisfied with its present arrangement for commercial transmission, and whether he felt there would be any advantage in the installation of a tie-line with the commercial companies for more rapid dispatch arrangement was fully satisfactory and that the average flow of traffic was not more than one fairly long cable in both directions every two or three days.

*He said that the present*

*and receipt of its cable traffic*

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SECURITY INFORMATION

operation of diplomatic radio stations is very great but is prevented because when approached the governments have said that such rights would be granted only on a reciprocal basis. In some cases this answer was forthcoming purely as a matter of national pride, for while refusing to grant communications rights to the United States unless granted similar rights in Washington, the officials have inferred that they would not actually open a radio station in this country.

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